

**September 3, 2020 Webinar
NEPA 202 - Best Management Practices
Attendee Questions**

Does the NSGO make NEPA determinations on its own or does Sea Grant rely on other NOAA analysts?

- **We do as much as we can based on existing documents that outline activities defined by and covered in NOAA NEPA policy. We also work with expertise in our own office. If neither of those options are sufficient, we go to experts within NOAA or at other agencies (often US Fish and Wildlife).**

Can a PI just put “no” for some questions in the questionnaire or do you have to explain why you are answering “no”?

- **It depends. For some questions a simple “no” will suffice, and for others “no” is not an option (the guidance will walk you through this). For lab and socioeconomics projects, you will be able to answer “no” or “NA” for many of the questions. However, every project should, at a minimum, have answers to proposed activity, methodology, and location.**

EFH (Essential Fish Habitat) is a pretty broad term and all fish habitat can be considered essential. How do you deal with that?

- **Yes, almost all coastal areas in the US have EFH. This is why details about your project’s activities and location are really important to include in the questionnaire. Those details are how we in NSGO can make a determination as to whether your project will have an ‘impact’ on EFH.**

What order or magnitude do you need for catch/number of organisms collected since this can be really unknown before sampling?

- **Give your best estimate. This question is there so we can determine if the quantity is impactful relative to the population size. For abundant organisms like shellfish or baitfish it is sufficient to say “approximately 100-200” but for other organisms (especially protected organisms) we need to know exact numbers. For example, if you plan to tag sea turtles, we need to know exactly how many and changes to those quantities could trigger further environmental review.**

Are IACUC and/or relevant IRB approvals necessary to provide?

- **Yes. This is new NSGO guidance and all forthcoming NOFOs and opportunities will explicitly state this requirement. If IACUC or IRB is not yet available, we will place a specific award condition (SAC) on your award that will request this information when it becomes available.**